

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00200 250427Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 /061 W

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 999

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: LIBERALS TRIUMPHANT IN QUEBEC CITY

1. LIBERALS WON BYELECTIONS IN TWO QUEBEC CITY RIDINGS HANDILY AS WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED. QUEBEC CITY MAYOR GILLES LAMONTAGNE ROLLED UP THE LARGEST MAJORITY OF SIX WINNERS IN TODAY'S BYELECTIONS AS HE HELD LANGELIER RIDING FOR THE LIBERALS. DENNIS DAWSON WON LOUIS-HEBERT FOR THE LIBERALS, ALSO WITH A SIZEABLE MAJORITY. CONSERVATIVES, ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED IN THEIR SORRY SHOWING AGAINST LIBERALS MOVED INTO SECOND PLACE IN BOTH RIDINGS, PASSING UP THE CREDISTES IN LANGELIER AND THE NEW DEMOCRATS IN LOUIS HEBERT.

2. RENE LEVESQUE, SPEAKING FROM HIS ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING AT MURRAY BAY (MALBAIE), SAID ELECTION SHOWS ONCE AGAIN THE EXTENT OF FEDERAL LIBERALS STRENGTH IN QUEBEC WHERE THEY HAVE NO FEDERALIST CHALLENGERS. PREMIER SAID THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS VOTE AND THE EFFORTS AND GOALS OF PQ GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANCE OF VOTE WILL BE TAINTED IN VIEW

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FO SOME OBSERVERS BECAUSE OF LOW TURNOUT. SMALL SCALE EFFORTS BY LOCAL PQ WORKERS TO AID FIGHT AGAINST LIBERALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS. DESPITE SOME SMALL PERCENTAGE GAINS FOR CONSERVATIVES, ELECTION RESULTS SHOW JOE CLARK--AS OTHER CONSERVATIVE LEADERS BEFORE--HAS FAILED TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSION IN QUEBEC DESPITE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT OF TIME AND PERSONAL

PRESTIGE. ELECTION HAS REINFORCED IMPRESSION HERE THAT MAJOR
FEDERALIST/SOVEREIGNTIST STRUGGLE NOW SHAPING UP WILL REVOLVE ABOUT
TRUDEAU AND LEVESQUE AS LEADING ADVOCATES OF CONSTITUTIONAL
ALTERNATIVES. THIS IMPRESSION LIKELY CONTINUE UNLESS QUEBEC
PROVINCIAL LIBERALS AND OTHER PROVINCIAL FEDERALISTS WHO SUPPORT
THIRD OPTION OF SUBSTANTIAL DEVOLUTION OF POWER ARE ABLE
PRODUCE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP AND ATTRACTIVE, WIDELY ACCEPTABLE
PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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